

The bipartisan agreement that passed last week included billions of dollars in additional resources—an important next step in strengthening our response. This is welcome news for States across the Nation grappling with the challenges of this epidemic, and it will be critical that these new Federal dollars are prioritized for States like New Hampshire that have been the hardest hit. I will continue working to ensure that happens, but even with this additional funding, we know that it will ultimately take a far greater investment to turn the tide of this horrible epidemic. Communities, law enforcement, and those struggling need our continued support and action, and Members of both parties must continue to work together in order to make progress.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO CASSANDRA
LEVESQUE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I also rise today to announce the next Granite Stater of the Month, a young woman who is well known among people in the New Hampshire State House and across the Granite State.

Cassandra Levesque, an 18-year-old from Barrington, is an advocate at the forefront of an important fight: out-

lawing the practice of child marriage in New Hampshire and across the country.

Last year, after learning that child brides face a higher likelihood of domestic violence and divorce and a lower chance of professional success, Cassandra set out to close the legal loopholes that allow children as young as 13 to wed in New Hampshire. As she took on this fight, she heard stories of women in her community who had been abused by their spouses after being married as minors. Cassandra bravely shared the story of her own grandmother and great-grandmother, both of whom were married as young teenagers and were subsequently abused by their husbands.

With encouragement and support from her Girl Scout community and with the help of a State representative, Cassandra got a bill introduced in the legislature that would have closed the loopholes that would allow childhood marriages to occur. She testified during a hearing on the bill, closely followed debate on the bill in the full house of representatives, and spoke out in the media to explain why the legislation was so important.

While the bill ultimately failed by a close margin, Cassandra has continued to speak out and raise awareness, and just last month, the legislative efforts to end child marriage began anew.

Cassandra exemplifies New Hampshire's strong tradition of civic engagement, especially by women, and she has inspired other young people to become active in their communities too. Cassandra launched a program in libraries around the State that helps kids learn about issues they are passionate about and gives them the tools they need to become advocates.

In New Hampshire, we roll up our sleeves and work together to address injustices and solve problems in our communities, and Cassandra is a perfect example of that spirit.

I am deeply grateful for Cassandra's hard work, and I will continue to follow her efforts closely. I look forward to the day when we can say that thanks to people like Cassandra, child marriage is a thing of the past in New Hampshire.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:15 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 10 a.m.